

Assistant Director for Operations

29 January 1948

Chief, ICAPS

Intelligence Terminology, Definitions of

1. Reference is made to:

- a. Memo from JIC to DCI, subject as above, dated 30 September 1947, and enclosure thereto.
- b. Telephone conversation between General Sibert and Colonel Sherman, 26 January 1948, on above subject.

2. Reference a fails to give definitions for a number of words listed, but refers to the Joint Army and Navy Dictionary. Attached hereto is a list of those words with the tentative definitions thereof, in compliance with your request.

3. These definitions, approved by JIC and CID, have been submitted to the Joint Logistics Planning Group of the JCS (Colonel Mark E. Smith of that office is in charge of the project), who are preparing the Joint Army and Navy Dictionary. Thereafter, the Dictionary will be sent to the Joint Strategic Survey Committee for approval, and thence to the Services for comment. Final publication probably will not be earlier than June 1949.

4. In the meantime, it is believed that these tentative definitions may serve a useful purpose.

PRESCOTT CHILDS

Attachment -

List of words with  
tentative definitions

PC:JBS/ml1

DICTIONARY OF MILITARY TERMS

- Distribution - In the field of collection of information, "distribution" is the initial process of circulating information to the appropriate researchers when it first reaches an intelligence organization.
- Estimate (noun) - The judgment or opinion, expressed verbally or in written form, after careful consideration and research, of the significance of conclusions reached.
- Collection - The procuring, assembling and organizing of information for further intelligence processing.
- Evaluation - The determination of the pertinence, credibility, reliability, and accuracy of an item of information.
- Collation - A critical comparison of various items of information concerning the same general subject.
- Analysis - The examination of information to distinguish component parts and determine various interrelationships.
- Synthesis - The examining and combining of processed information with other information and intelligence for final interpretation.
- Interpretation - The determination of the probable meaning and significance of processed information in terms of past, present and future factors.
- Presentation - The selection of the medium of conveyance and arrangement of intelligence into the most suitable form for clear and full understanding. It may take the form of oral, graphic, and written media or combinations thereof.
- Dissemination - The distribution of intelligence and information in such a manner as to insure that it reaches the agencies needing it, in usable form, and in accordance with its urgency.